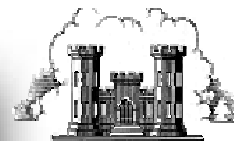


The Newcastle

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October 2003



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Los Angeles District



THE DISTRICT'S NEWEST STAR

See page 5

Whether Santa Fe Dam... the homeless... or a lone tree...

By Mike Tharp

From leveraging a bulldozer blade to steering a radio-equipped government jeep, Tony Masoe knows the lay of the land at Santa Fe Dam Basin.

The onetime heavy crane operator at the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station is now the District's maintenance supervisor at the flood control basin east of downtown Los Angeles. So when Irwindale police began telling him of problems at homeless encampments on Corps land—fires, vandalism, drug use—the 34-year agency veteran knew what to do. He'd seen the heavily vegetated alluvial plain from the cactus-studded ground up, so he set his first priority as creating access to the area for cops and fire-fighters.

Masoe dispatched team members from the El Monte Baseyard and several Corps contractors to the roughly 40-acre site. Under Masoe's supervision, they manned graders, bulldozers and trucks, bisecting the area with dirt roads wide enough to accommodate fire and police vehicles. "We blazed roads all around the compound," he said. "The fire department had been putting out a lot of fires, and bikers and recreationists were being chased by dogs. One thing led to another."

The District employees also posted signs all along the cyclone fence surrounding the property: "You are camped on Corps land in an unauthorized area. This site will be cleaned up. You should take all your personal belongings from this area or they will be considered trash and hauled away beginning on Monday, 25 August 2003."

The posters' audience was at least a dozen homeless people and their dogs who, over the years, had gradually usurped the land. Although Masoe—

himself a Vietnam combat veteran—and other District team members were personally sympathetic to the plight of some of the homeless, some of whom were vets themselves, they knew they had to follow the law. And the law said the people in the basin were trespassing on government property in a flood control zone.

But on the 25th, when authorities swept in to clean up the area, the quality of mercy wasn't strained. Where some may have seen only a scourge to be uprooted, Irwindale Police Sgt. John Falone saw an opportunity. The officer called in 19 public and private agencies, according to the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, to offer help to the men and women being removed from the dam basin. "This is the first time we've actively gone and tried to do something solely for their benefit," he told the newspaper.

One of the assisting agencies was Project Achieve, an El Monte adjunct of the Institute for Urban Research and Development. A month before the cleanup date, Sgt. Falone asked Project Achieve for help in relocating and rehabbing the homeless. The police and city officials hoped "that we could provide aid to these individuals rather than see them be arrested," said Rudy Salinas, a street outreach case manager for Project Achieve.

Salinas and others met eight of the homeless people and, so far, have succeeded in getting substantial help to two of them. One man in his late 30s or early 40s is now receiving regular services from the agency, and another man has received medical assistance. Salinas stressed that the project isn't a shelter. "We try to begin the process to get them out of the homeless cycle," he said.

Meanwhile, Masoe and his District colleagues still have a big cleanup job to finish. Using both Corps people and the contract workers, they've been bulldozing mounds of trash and garbage, dumping them into trucks and trash bins and hauling them away. They've policed up needles and other drug paraphernalia, plastic bags, empty butane tanks, tin cans, shopping carts, backpacks, human and ani-

...the Corps cares

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On the front cover: MAJ David Hurley received the Bronze Star at the Town Hall meeting. See the story on page 5.





Letter to the District

Great to hear about the Mechanical Mule (*Newscastle*, Sep. 2003). As a Marine corporal stationed at Camp Pendleton Calif., I was an acting sergeant in the 1st Marine Division, and sergeant in charge of two main-side supply warehouses.

The warrant officer in charge called me into his office, and told me to test drive a new vehicle for the Marine Supply Unit. I was then introduced to the “Mechanical Mule” which was quite unique due to the fact that you could haul anything up to 1000 lbs, on what looked to be a platform on wheels.

You could drive it while sitting down, or to make more room for supplies, you could fold the steering column down and drive it by walking and steering it. I hit the hills of Pendleton and had a ball showing off this strange vehicle.

I was called in to give my report on the use of the Mule, and gave it a thumbs up for operation and utility. As I recall, this was early 1957. Thanks for the memory, and good luck.

Jerome C. O'Keefe U.S.M.C.

Retired Chief of Detectives of a St. Louis County Police Department



mal feces—even a kitchen sink. “Very unsanitary conditions,” Masoe said recently as he drove his jeep over the rugged trail.

“We’ve been separating debris from green waste, and right now it’s 100 percent improvement over what used to be.” He estimates the cleanup is about halfway finished.

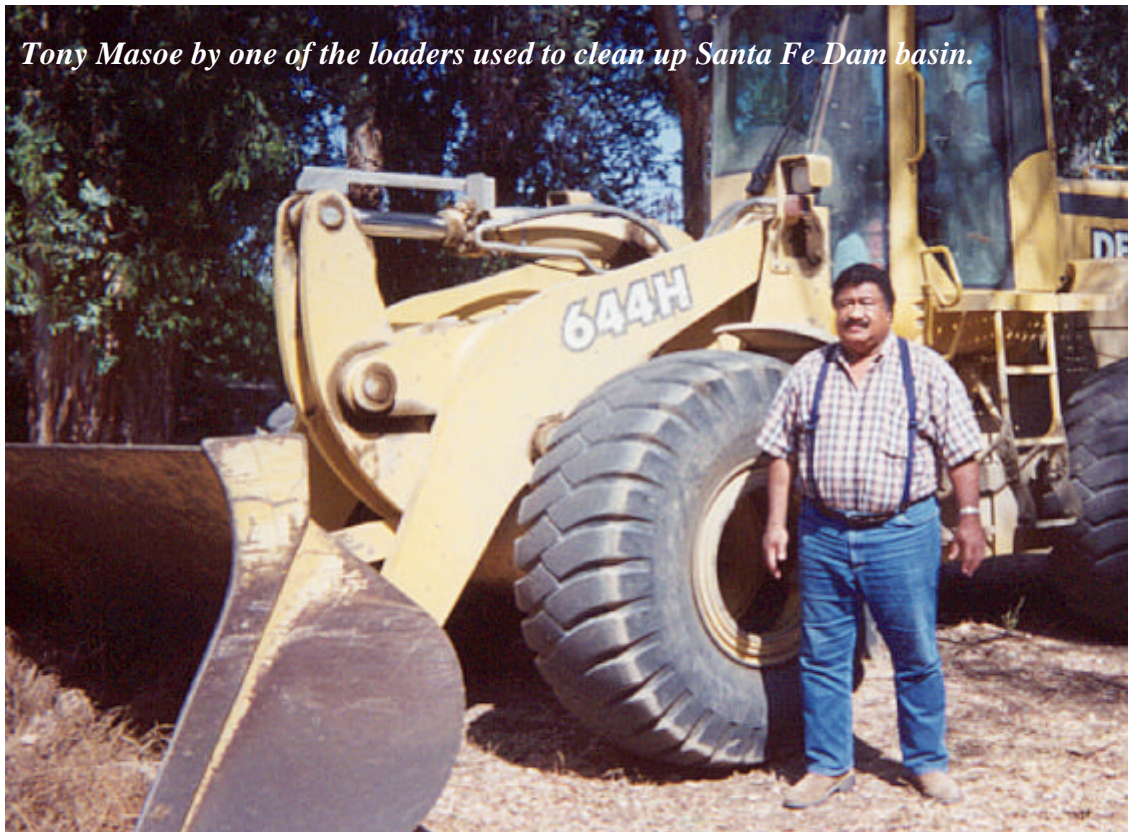
It’s still unclear why the transients picked Santa Fe

Dam Basin for their hide-out. Salinas of Project Achieve has his own theories: “We’ve noticed severe mental illness in some of them, and drug use is quite rampant—meth (amphetamines), mainly. For the most part, they try to make as few connections as possible with society. They scrape together cans to recycle to pay for food, drink or drugs.”

Even as the cleanup winds down, there’s some concern some of the homeless will try to return. “That’s their home,” Salinas said. “They have difficulty leaving the area. We are here to present an option for them. It may not be the best option, but

it’s one option.”

And just as Project Achieve works to fulfill its mission, so does Masoe work at one of the Corps’ environmental missions. Pointing to a wizened California manzanita tree among the hundreds of lemon berry trees, he said, “That’s the only one here. I tell ‘em (the crews) they can cut down some of the others, but that one stays.”



Tony Masoe by one of the loaders used to clean up Santa Fe Dam basin.

Townhall features 2012, questions and more than three stars

By Mike Tharp

We know he's not going to run for President.

We know he gave two hours off to all District team members who attended the annual Town Hall. We know he's as serious as a heart attack about implementing USACE 2012.

We know from the Chief Engineer directly that "Los Angeles has its share of heroes" as he handed out commander's coins and a Bronze Star to deserving people. And we know he can make a room full of folks roar like a "Lucy" laugh track as he tried to stump them in "Corps Jeopardy."

LTG Bob Flowers let us know all those things and more during his whirlwind visit to the District Oct. 15. Speaking to a crowd of 400-plus in the downtown headquarters, Flowers strode the aisle and elaborated on a stirring video with his relentlessly upbeat comments about the Corps. "We are absolutely unique," he boomed. "No other country has anything like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

Besides his sweeping survey of the Corps' horizon, Flowers took time to bestow awards on District team members, attend the annual retirees luncheon (see accompanying story) and answer questions from his attentive



audience. One questioner, noting the new career of former GEN Wesley Clark, asked the Chief Engineer what his post-retirement plans might be.

"I'm not going to run for President," he declared to general merriment. "I'll retire next year and then want to work in the private sector for awhile. Then when I finally retire, I want to become a mentor and work with the disadvantaged. What's always lit my fire is to see the light come on in somebody's eyes."

Those receiving commendations from the general included Richard "Dick" Nagle who "never hesitates to share what he knows and shares credit unselfishly;" Terry Dean, for "multiple achievements" that helped the INS and Border Patrol officers; Sheryl Blackburn, for her work ensuring vehicle maintenance and access cards; Alfonso Quintero, whose plans and specs for the Tropicana and Flamingo Wash projects have been instrumental in its progress; Lloyd Godard, "who stepped in when half his (environmental) section was out;" Glynn Alsop, for his yeoman efforts with American Indians in Arizona and New Mexico; Mary Young, who revived the EEO office into a vital



Photos, this page and next: LTG Flowers discussed 2012 along with his plans for retirement, as well as presenting several coin awards at the Townhall on Oct. 15.

By Fred Otto Egeler

unit; Michael Hrzic, who volunteered to help fight raging fires in Arizona both last year and this; Rick Leifield, who introduced a new computerized project management system into civil works; Keith Lo, “the MVP of computer support” in the Information Management Office; and Mike Tharp, Public Affairs, first-place winner in a 2002 Corps-wide print journalism competition.

Flowers also pinned a Bronze Star onto the uniform of MAJ Dave Hurley for his exceptional efforts setting up Task Force Fajr (“First Light”) to restore power in Iraq.

After thanking “all of you for being the people you are and doing that jobs you do for us every day,” Flowers emphasized three themes: the Corps contributions to national security; to the economy, and to the environment.

He noted that one study estimated it would cost \$1.6 trillion over the next 10 years to fix the nation's infrastructure, and the Corps “is an organization poised to help and support that effort.” Overseas, the Corps operates in 92 countries, especially in the developing world, and he called it “an agency working to close the gap between the haves and the have-nots,” which he said would also help “take away the recruiting ground for terrorism.”

In Iraq and Afghanistan the Corps has 487 team mem-

bers on station. It wasn't until the end of April that the first Corps employees were on the ground to begin the Restore Iraqi Oil mission, and Flowers said the

country began its first postwar oil exports June 15. “A month and a half,” he marveled. “No other agency in the world could do that.”

The Corps is “the key enabler” in Iraq, Flowers said, “because the key fight right now is to restore that country's infrastructure. “We're not getting a thing out of this—we're not taking one dime in Iraqi oil money. It's all going back in to rebuild the country.”

USACE 2012 “is all about acting as one team and operating virtually,” he explained. As an example, he cited Mobile District's work on designing new locks for the Panama Canal. Ultimately, 10 districts became involved in



LTG Bob Flowers presents MAJ Dave Hurley with a Bronze Star for his work in setting up Task Force Fajr in Iraq.

the project, and the Panamanian government has called on the Corps seven times since signing a memorandum of agreement in 2000. “When you do work in a timely fashion, people want you back,” Flowers added.

When he assumed command of the Corps, the median age of team members was 50; today it is 42. The number of employees has dropped to 35,000 from 47,000 a decade ago. About the Corps missions, the general generated laughter when he said: “If it's not controversial, we don't touch it. If it was easy, they'd give it to someone else.”

Corps Jeopardy included questions about the Do-It card, the original name of the Dodgers, the year they moved from Brooklyn to L.A., and the number of Environmental Operating Procedures. Winners got 59 minutes off. Losers were supposed to do pushups.

At the end of his talk, Flowers' aide-de-camp showed a moving montage of images from Corps districts around the world, including many from L.A. It was set to the music of a song by rocker Bob Seger, and the title could aptly describe the Chief Engineer himself:

“Like a Rock!”





Water, water everywhere, and now a stop to think of Corps' role in new San Gabriel Discovery Center

By Mike Tharp

A ditch has found its niche.

Years ago, L.A. District gave an easement to the L.A. County Dept. of Public Works to use the Zone 1 Ditch as part of the flood control program at Whittier Narrows/Rio Hondo Dam. The concrete channel detours water from the San Gabriel River to a "spreading ground" where it percolates back into the soil to replenish wells and other supply sources.

But now the ditch has a new name—"Lario"—and will soon have a new face.

It's all part of the multimillion-dollar San Gabriel River Discovery Center, a multi-agency project aimed at teaching the public about the invaluable value of water. Scheduled for construction in two to three years, the center will replace the present Whittier Narrows Nature Center.

For decades, L.A. County has leased most of some 400 acres along the San Gabriel River from the Corps for recreational and educational facilities. Now, with the backing of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, the county's parks and rec department hopes to emphasize the crucial role of water for both man and nature.

"It will help the public a lot to understand water and flood management," said Phyllis Trabold, an ecologist who's the closest thing the District has to a park ranger. "When people see water running into a storm drain, now they can see where it goes."

In 2000, after it was clear he wouldn't win the California governorship, five-time congressman Tom Campbell was asked what the state's three main future problems would be. Education and immigration were predictable puffball answers from most any politician. But then

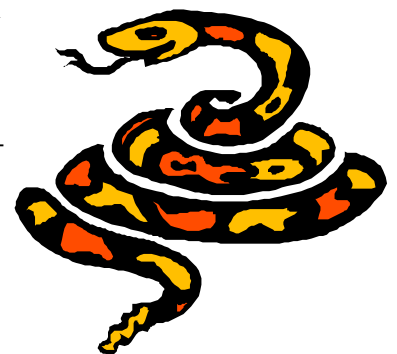
Campbell, now dean of the Haass School of Business at University of California/Berkeley and a longtime professor at Stanford Law School, added the third: "Water."

When one of California's most astute analysts pinpoints how critical water is as a resource, it's clear that the Corps' stakeholders should be able to learn more about it. A small but symbolic part of the educational effort is Zone 1 Ditch. The Rivers and Mountain Conservancy's project manager, Jeff Yann, has coined the name "Lario" for the new-and-improved version of the trench. "It's a combination of L.A. and 'rio' (Spanish for river)," he explained on a recent tour. "We'll reconfigure it to make it look more like a natural stream—like the San Gabriel might have looked before it went into a channel."

The Lario "will be a great place to show the importance of groundwater," Yann said. He noted that during the mid-'90s drought that affected much of the region, "we in the San Gabriel Valley weren't on water rationing because we had the source here. This is how we're going to get a lot of our water in the future."

Also on the blueprint for the project at the junction of the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers are a new wetlands, complete with small island whose inhabitants will be protected from humans and predators; outdoor exhibits and nature trails; a reference library for research; a native plant garden and other displays. Construction for the new two-story Discovery Center is expected to begin in two to two-and-a-half years, with completion expected around 2006.

The preliminary \$4 million to \$5 million price-tag will come from state bond funding, private donations, money from the



Belinda Faustinos, executive officer of the conservancy, praises "the cooperative relationship" between L.A. County and private groups.



conservancy and the water district and corporate and other sources.

Centuries, even millennia, before the Corps dammed up the rivers, groundwater in the area created livable habitat for plants and animals. The Gabrieleno Indians found the alluvial basin ideal for their early villages, and it was also the first site of the San Gabriel Mission.

Today an estimated 300 species of birds flock in the sandy and silty plain, which is also home to numerous species of mammal, reptiles, amphibians and plants. It "could be called an island within a sea of concrete and metal," reads a plaque at the start of a trail. "Although disrupted and altered by man, it is now set aside for study and use as a laboratory for living things."

Project participants unanimously endorsed the Corps' contributions to its development. "This project isn't going to happen without the cooperation of the Corps," Yann said. "They've been very appreciative, and we count on

their support and continued commitment."

Belinda Faustinos, executive officer of the conservancy, observed that "the Corps is central to the whole area. There's no way we can move forward without the Corps' support." The center, she said, "will be at the heart of our rivers and at the heart of our community that desperately needs the open spaces and educational opportunities."

Calling the project "an opportunity for us to literally put these rivers back on the map," Kenneth Manning, vice president of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, said he was "working with the Corps very closely. We're going to need land for parking and exhibits, which will end up on Corps land. They've been very cooperative."

As they spoke, a red-tailed hawk watched from a power pylon, southern alligator lizards scampered among the arroyo willow and a snowy egret stood near Zone 1 Ditch.

Make that the Lario.

Jeff Yang, Discovery Center project manager, explains both the vision and the nuts-and-bolts behind the center.



Photos by
Lang/Pan/Chan
Public Relations

It could be an abandoned gas station in Glendale, Ariz. Or a pink stucco motel in the Nevada desert where Howard Hughes staged one of his marriages. Or an old tank farm in aptly named City of Industry, Calif. Or a casket company in Irwindale, Calif.

Any of these sites, and hundreds of others, could qualify as "brownfields"—abandoned, idled or under-used properties which are tough to redevelop because of real or suspected contamination. Now, under a 2002 law, states, tribes and communities can become eligible for EPA grants ranging up to \$700,000 per applicant.

As a runup to the national conference in Portland, the EPA sponsored a brownfields workshop at the L.A. District headquarters Oct. 16. The meeting was one of six arranged by the environmental agency's Region 9 to acquaint stakeholders with the program. Some 50 representatives of cities, counties, nonprofits, private firms and others flocked to a Corps conference room to hear the EPA's Carolyn Douglas and Steven Linder explain the program and answer their questions about eligibility and other issues.

"We're interested in working with the Corps in future programs," Linder said after the event. "Suzanne Perkins (of the Corps) is working in our San Francisco office now, and we'd love to expand this." Added Priscilla Perry, a civil engineer and study manager in the District's Coastal Studies Group: "I was glad to see that the Brownfields program has softened to allow more sites to be developed under the grant program. This money could provide a source of funding for small cities which could benefit them economically through revitalization, and the Corps could provide valuable assistance to them."

This is not your father's skimpy redevelopment scheme.

Between 1995 and 2003, Region 9 awarded 87 brownfields grants valued at \$32.5 million. EPA estimated the total value of cleanup, construction and redevelopment leveraged by the program at \$756 million. "The brownfield assessment program lets you use the money to assess if there are contaminants on the property," said Douglas. But the program is far from another government giveaway, and she estimated that fewer than 20% of last year's applicants got grants.

Comments from participants were generally favorable:

Will Reed, Santa Barbara County: "This was my first Brownfields workshop and it provided a pretty good foundation for me as my agency begins to look toward possible Brownfields sites to build homes on. Although the presenters answered all of my questions and provided me with good direction, there were a few questions from others that weren't answered. I will be attending more workshops in the future, but I don't think we, the county, will be in a position to complete an application by the deadline date. Maybe next year!"

Jim Hill, City of Signal Hill: "The workshop was a nice, informal and very information forum that I feel will really benefit my preparation of the city's Brownfields grant application. Signal Hill was approved for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot Grant in 2000, and it really helped in the development process of a few major projects in the city. We hope we can build on that previous success with another grant award for FY 2004."

Alex Fu, L.A. City Housing Dept.: "It was very informative. However, I wish that there

Out of the graffiti and tra



Retirees come home, get lunch, a tour and Flowers (the Chief, not the blooms)

By Mike Tharp

You can go home again.

It took nine tables, seven floors and six hours for the District to honor its retirees at the annual luncheon Oct. 15 at the downtown headquarters. COL Richard Thompson shifted the venue so retirees could tour their old stomping grounds following the day in their honor.

The package included a morning reception, awards ceremony, luncheon, speeches by COL Thompson and LTC John Guenther, a raffle and a floor-by-floor tour, from 9 to 15, of District offices.

Retirees enjoyed a special bonus—the presence of Chief Engineer LTG Bob Flowers, also in town to address the Town Hall. He mixed and mingled with the retirees over a lunch of cold cuts and salads on the 17th floor of the District offices. Despite his urgent schedule, he seemed to make time to sit down at each of the nine tables where current team members were also seated.

Inducted to the Gallery of Distinguished Civilians were Steve Temmel, formerly Office of Counsel; Robert Joe, ex-chief of Planning and later PPMD; and Henry Watson, the most recent retiree in September from LMO. Watson also won a raffle prize and denied that the fix was in.

Retiree reactions were unanimously positive to the event.

VANCE CARSON, Engineering Division: “I was very, very pleased with it. Been wanting to do this (have it in the home office) for a long time. It’s really good to get around and see what the employees are doing nowadays compared to when we were there—all the advancements in computers. And it’s fantastic we got the Chief—what more could you ask for?”

BARBARA MADISON, Personnel and later Defense Contract Management District West: “It was absolutely wonderful. I loved every moment, and it was a nice turnout. No one seemed to have a complaint. This was a

really great event, and it would be great with me if you do it the same way next year.”

OFELIA ESPARZA,

Real Estate: “It was fantastic. We really enjoyed it. We just had a good time talking to everyone. The food was excellent, and everybody was really nice.”

MARK HOFELDT, Baseyard: “It turned out nicer than when we had it at Luminarias or outside; we went on the tour and looked at the way things are done today.” (He drove four hours from his home in Henderson, Nev., but it wasn’t just to attend the luncheon; he and his wife also visited their son and daughter in Huntington Beach.)

JACK HUGHES, Management Analysis: “I think it was great” He’s still living between Pasadena and Glendale and following international law.

MARGARET RIORDAN, Con-Ops at the Baseyard: “It was great, especially the desserts.” She came with her daughter Rosalie Riordan.

ELSIE BATION, Real Estate: “It was a nice friendly group. Nobody was trying to rush you away.” She’s currently “trying to learn how to play bridge.”

ALLEN GARRETT, Water Resources Branch in Planning: “I just want to see the branch today and its facilities.” He came with his wife Kay, a licensed psychologist in Orange County, who said, “The luncheon was great, and we enjoyed the social hour downstairs.”

Even some absent friends weighed in with their thoughts:

COL PAUL TAYLOR, former executive officer, now in New York State: “These luncheons are important! I am glad you still hold them—wish I was close enough to attend.”

FRED LESSING, graphic arts: “Out of state on that date, but hope to attend next year.”

RICHARD HARBIN: “Thank you for asking. I’m 83 and have trouble walking and getting around. I have attended all of these since 1985 except for the last two years.”

With such esprit, it’s easy to understand why the Corps inspires such loyalty.

Essays!



LTG Bob Flowers and COL Richard G. Thompson unveil the plaque for this year’s inductees to the Gallery of Distinguished Civilians, Steve Temmel, Henry Watson and Robert Joe.





Dennis Eich

The legacy of Dennis Eich lives on in Macedonia schoolchildren

By Capt. Lora Neal

Skopje, FYROM (Macedonia)—September 11 was a perfect late summer day, partly sunny with a threat of rain, and crisp. A small group of personnel from Camp Bond-

steel's Real Estate Contracting Office traveled to Skopje to participate in a memorial service for former IMA Europe Real Estate Contracting Officer Dennis Eich.

As he drove, Gazmend "Artie" Asani, RECO specialist and protégé of Eich's recalled him as "...very much alive. He taught me so much about negotiating. Dennis set up a system of filing, tracking, contracts, and interpreting." So when Eich passed away somewhat unexpectedly this past spring his loss was felt in a significant way.

RECO Director Florine Jordan explained: "Dennis came as a member of a Contingency Real Estate Team to Bosnia in 1996 and 1997 and was deployed twice in that capacity. He then deployed in 1999 to Albania in support of Albania Forces or AFOR. Shortly thereafter he moved to Camp Able Sentry in FYROM in support of Joint Guardian Kosovo Forces Task Force Falcon (Rear). He also worked TDY in Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Greece and Albania."

Asani continued, "When Dennis died his parents came to me with an idea that they wanted to do something for the community Dennis loved. When Dennis' boss in the U.S. suggested that Asani set up the memorial he thought the school from which he attended, 25 May School, would be a great beneficiary of the money."

A tour of the school revealed the improvements. Several areas had been cleaned and refurbished and freshly painted walls in over 35 classrooms, hallways administration offices and the teacher's conservatory were a welcomed sight for students, staff and visitors. With the remaining memorial money the school plans to purchase curtains for classroom windows.

School Principal Rrahim Hamidi said this was a very important gift because the school had not had improvements for over 10 years. Hamidi referred to Eich as "honorable." In a prepared statement Hamidi read regard-

ing Eich he said, "Your donation has helped us in this school get a new face lift. It brings joy for the kids. With this donation we gain not only material benefits, we gain new friends for eternity. From this act, this donation, Dennis' name will become a part of this collegium."

Asani is planning, because of this initial effort, to set up a permanent fund to support education, not only for 25 May School but one to benefit the whole community. He wants to promote multi-ethnicity. He also wants to establish a foundation with a board of directors to keep accountability of the money and keep the fund going a long time. Asani said, "I owe so much to Dennis. He taught me a lot. A longtime fund would be the ultimate respect for Dennis." He continued, "Dennis' point was that young people only have hate towards other ethnicities because they have learned it. He felt the key to understanding others is through education."

Hamidi presented Jordan with a token on behalf of the Dennis Eich memorial and said, "On behalf of this collegium, the pupils and staff we would kindly ask you to receive a gift in memory of Dennis Eich."

The sounds of children laughing and playing outside floated on the late summer breeze through the open windows of the conference room, as Jordan thanked everyone for the gift, and for their dedication on behalf of her friend and colleague, Eich. She said, "Dennis supported the peacekeeping mission for 4 years. He loved his job, your country, and your children. Dennis was a strong supporter of education. His memory will live on, through this dedication, in your children."



The gift given to RECO director Florine Jordan as a thank-you from the 25 May School.

Note from Anne Gamson: Dennis had just celebrated his 45th birthday at the time of his passing. He started with the Corps in September 1986, as a trainee Realty Specialist. All of his time in the federal service was with the Corps in Phoenix except for a tour of duty with HQ USAREUR and 7th Army from November 1999 through October 2002.

Lunch down south... south of the District, that is

The San Diego Project/Field Office enjoyed lunch with LTG Bob Flowers recently. They reported the general was pleasant, personable, and very informative. They discussed the vision of the Corps of Engineers, world-wide Corp projects/involvement and some of the current work in Iraq.

LTG Flowers was also very appreciative of the assistance that John Yates provided to him and his staff. Yates received a gold coin for his work. He told Yates that he was impressed with the San Diego Office and present staff.



LTG Bob Flowers poses with some of the San Diego Project/Field office after lunch.

Strong environmental background in new Civil Works ASA

On August 22 President George W. Bush appointed John Paul Woodley Jr. as Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works).

Woodley is responsible for the supervision of the Army's Civil Works program, including programs for conservation and development of the national water resources, flood control, navigation, and shore protection.

Before to his appointment, Woodley served as the Assistant Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Environment). In this capacity he oversaw the Defense environmental program, encompassing both environmental restoration and compliance and pollution prevention efforts. Woodley was also the principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense on environmental, safety and occupational health policy and programs.

Woodley also served as Secretary of Natural Resources in Virginia Jan. 1998 until Oct. 2001. During that time, Woodley supervised eight Virginia agencies responsible for environmental regulation, permitting and enforcement, natural and historic conservation and outdoor recreation, including parks, fisheries and wildlife management.



RETIREMENT



Chief of CONOPS George Beams (left) presents John Hetager with a certificate of retirement on Oct.3. John was the Vandenberg Resident Engineer for more than a year.

Dam tender Donnie May ropes steers for fun, profit and ‘big belt buckles’

By Mike Tharp

The 600-pound steer bursts from the dusty chute and, snorting froth, bolts for kingdom come.

As soon as his horns pass an electronic-eye barrier 12 feet out in the arena, two mounted cowboys charge after him. Both cradle nylon ropes in their gloved hands, and neither rope is tied to the saddle horn. The cowboys have got to work together as tightly as Stockton and Malone, as quickly as Davey Lopes to Bill Russell. They’ve got to do it while riding and guiding a galloping horse. And they’ve got to do it with a seriously bad-tempered bovine.

frontier days, a feature at pro and amateur rodeos for decades, now entering a new phase of family participation. It probably started “when a couple of cowhands challenged they could stretch a steer for branding faster than their buddies; another checked with his watch and the sport was born,” says the U.S. Team Roping Championship (USTRC) web site.

Which brings us to Donnie May, L.A. District dam tender at the Painted Rock Dam in Arizona. He’s practicing to compete in the national championships at Oklahoma City in late October. He, his partner Robert Gonzales and

their horses—Mays’ is aptly named “Jackpot”—will load up their truck and trailer and head east for the roundup. The team qualified by finishing second in their class at the Arizona championships in February. Competing against more than 300 other entries, May and Gonzalez won \$7,128 out of a purse of nearly \$56,000. “And a big belt buckle too,” May drawls. “Oklahoma City will pay like a slot machine.”

Oklahoma City is also the largest equestrian event in the world. Ropers from all over North America will compete for cash and prizes totaling nearly \$4 million. Until 1990 amateurs and beginners had to wrangle with professionals, but now USTRC puts people of like expertise together and they compete on a fair footing with one another. “Everybody has a little bit of cowboy in them,” says Kirk Bray, president of the association. “A team roper just has to have a horse, a rope and a love for the sport.”

May has all three. The 24-year Corps veteran is one of those real-deal Westerners who uses “cowboy” and “rodeo” as verbs. He learned to cowboy “when I was big

enough to get on a horse” at a west Texas ranch and started “drawin’ wages” for it when he was 13. After a tour with the Marines, he entered his first team-roping event in 1967 while living in Santa Ana, Calif. “I just kinda learned in California,” he recalls.

He moved to Arizona in 1976 and joined the Corps three years later. Not long afterwards, he became a dam tender at Painted Rock Dam. Built in 1959 as a major flood control project in the Gila River Drainage Basin, the earthfill dam demands close attention. It has a drainage area of nearly 51,000 square miles, its crest reaches more than 700 feet and it’s just 500 feet shy of a mile long. Less than a



Photo © Brenda Allen

Donnie Mays prepares to rope the back legs of a steer in a team roping event.

One man’s a header, the other a heeler. The header must throw his rope over the steer’s horns, then “dally,” or wrap it, around his saddle horn and turn the steer leftward. The heeler, trailing, must throw his rope around the steer’s hind feet, then dally his own rope. As soon as header faces heeler, the event is over and they get their time. It’s always a matter of a few seconds: six to nine will win a prize, double-digits probably won’t. If they leave the chute before the steer crosses the electronic beam, 10 seconds are added to their time; if they only get one foot, it’s five more seconds.

Welcome to team roping – a staple of cow-camps in

Time for a change

By Pam Wills

On Nov. 17, network passwords will change again. New ones will be mailed Nov. 3 to Division secretaries in the 915 building and to the area offices at field sites. Maybe some of you are wondering why this happens and why, just when you have memorized the last password, you have to get a new one.

According to Kate Birger, database administrator and assistant Information Assurance Security officer, and Carl Mills, data and U-PASS administrator, passwords are changed every six months for network security. The User Password Administration Security System (U-PASS) randomly generates the passwords.

Employees can have as few as three and up to six passwords, depending on how many systems they have access to. All employees have a Unix login password for the network. Anyone with CEFMS access will have an Oracle database password. The dial-in password is used at home or on TDY to dial into the network. The Virtual Private Network, or VPN, password, is used for people who are off-site for dialing up for network access. Other passwords include the NT password for access to the Resident Engineers Management System (RMS) and Standardized Procurement System (SPS). Users must have access to CEFMS to have access to RMS & SPS.

It is also important to know that the UserID is not a password. It is unique identifier for anyone using the

network. The L1 in the password refers to the LA District. The second three letters refer to the organization or division and branch or section of the employee and the last three letters are the employee's initials.

Computer security training, or INFOSEC, must be completed once a year by all employees. New or changed passwords will not be provided until employees have passed this training.

New passwords should be kept in a safe place where they won't be lost and where others cannot see them. You should never share your passwords with others.



I lost my password! What do I do?



To submit a request for a new password to your supervisor, go to the Intranet and click on USACE, then go to L.A. District; IMO; Documents; Forms; User I.D. & Password Application. Print and fill out the form. Both you and your supervisor must sign it before you take it to Carl Mills or Kate Birger.

To Access INFOSEC:

Go to the Intranet, click on Reference, then go to Learning Center; Information System Security. Once the Information Systems Security comes up, select Training to begin.

mile away is the Painted Rock Petroglyph Site, popular with tourists and scientists alike.

May dropped out of team roping for 20 years, after he got married and because he had trouble with crippled horses. "Then they came up with this new association deal (the USTRC), and there was a lot of money out there," he explains. No bull. Last year USTRC delivered nearly \$19.5 million in cash and prizes to its members, with the national finals topping \$3.9 million in cash and prizes. The outfit classifies almost 19,000 team ropers, according to their handicaps, across North America. A "1," for example, signifies a beginner; "9" is a world champ. May, the header, is a "2," and his partner Gonzales, the heeler, is a "3."

To get a feel for what happens on horseback, here's what roper Speed Williams wrote to Ropers Sports News: "We'd been roping aggressively and when I roped the steer, he slowed up and the slack hit him in the left side, then bounced up and hickeyed the left horn. Sometimes you can throw your slack up and it will pull it off the left horn. As it happened, I'd dallied and started left and I came back and tried to pop it off, but the steer had little

'cow horns' and I couldn't get it off." Speed and his partner had no beef about that one—they lost.

A roper's horse can spell the difference between paydirt and plain ol' dirt. Jackpot is an 11-year-old quarter horse, and although he and May have been together nine years, they've roped together only the past three. "A horse makes a lot of difference," says Burl Stewart, co-owner of the North American Team Roping Assn. "His speed, his ability to handle cattle, to turn 'em and control 'em."

May, his wife Myrna and Jackpot all live at the Painted Rock Dam. When he resumed team roping, he built a small arena nearby and sometimes practiced there. Right now no steers are on site, but May plans to bring some out soon to work with. No matter how much he practices, however, May says: "There's a lotta luck in this. You got two men, two horses and a steer. If you draw a bad steer, you can't win. One guy may get a steer that don't run, and yours is running all over. It puts you behind.

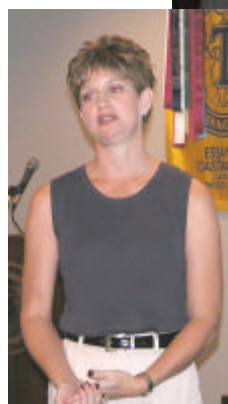
"There's a lotta luck involved," he repeats. "Just like playing poker."

But with Gonzalez and his quarter horse in Oklahoma City, May just might hit the Jackpot.

CFC kickoff big \$uccess



This year's Campaign for Federal Contributions (CFC) featured speakers from various organizations such as Westside Family Health Center, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Infectious Disease Science Center and Drive-By Agony. More than 100 District team members attended to learn more about some of the charitable organizations they can help with donations.



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